

Grant and Per Diem Operational Call

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Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific

Visuals: <http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/gpdbh/>

Audio: 1-800-767-1750 Code: 17663#

Agenda

- 1. Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Announcements and Updates**
 - Grant Cycle Timeline
- 2. Office of Business Oversight (OBO) Announcements and Updates**
- 3. Status with COVID-19: Polls**
- 4. CARES Act GPD Part 2: Waive on Per Diem Rate Deeper Dive**
- 5. Interactive Dialogue**
 - Working with Veterans
 - Supporting Coordination
- 6. Next Steps**

GPD Announcements and Updates

1. Per Diem Only (PDO) Grants

- By the end of the week, notification will be completed to those who have been conditionally selected and not conditionally selected. Notification is sent to the grant applicant via GIFTS.

2. Transition in Place (TIP) Grants

- It is anticipated that notification will be sent during the 2nd half of June.

3. Special Needs (SN) Grants

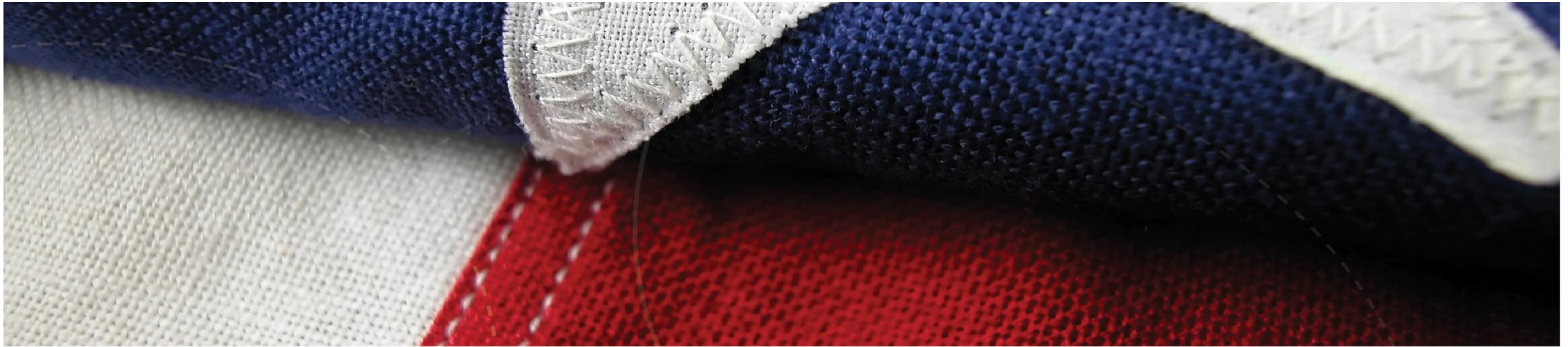
- It is anticipated that notification may be sent later this week or early next week.

4. Please Note

- Conditional selection does not mean that application has been selected for funding but rather that it is continuing to move through the application consideration process

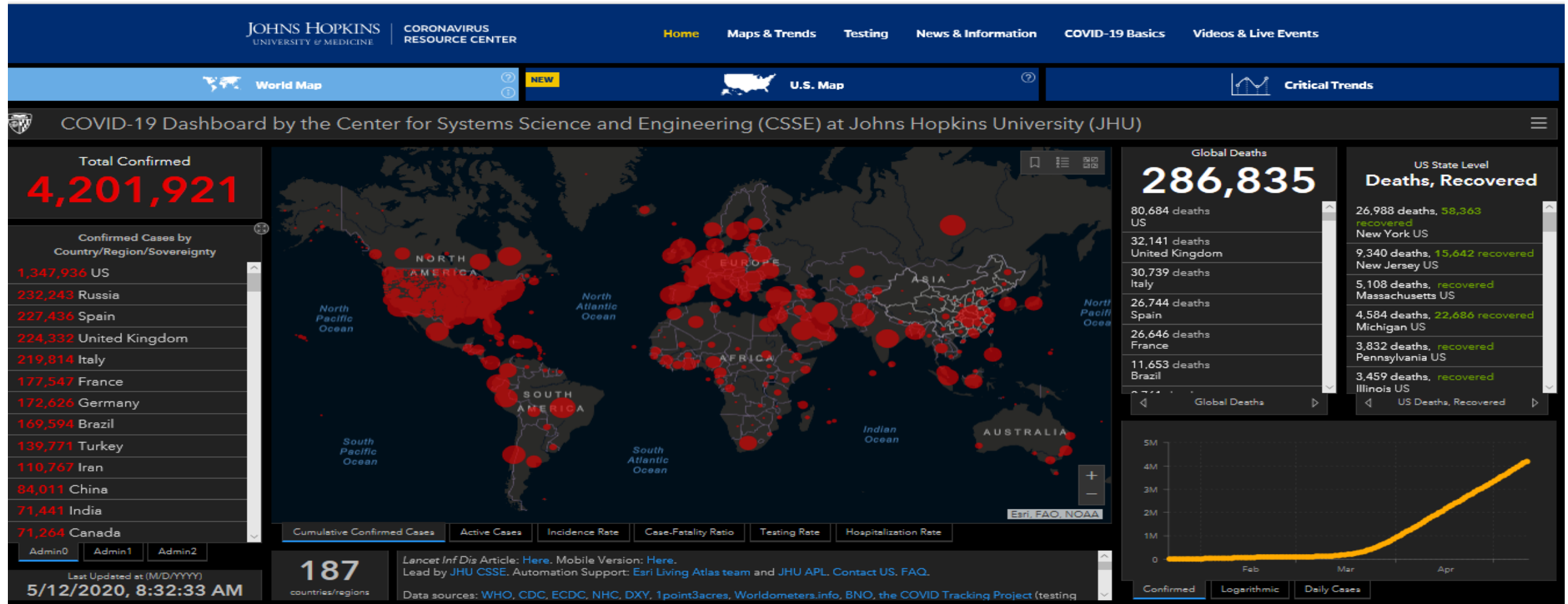
Office of Business Oversight

- **Federal Contractors**
 - Gentech Associates, Inc. and KPMG
- **Upcoming Desk Reviews**
 - First at Blue Ridge, Ridgecrest, NC – May 19-21, 2020
 - Work Express, Brockton, MA – May 19-21, 2020
 - Phoenix Recovery Institute, Oklahoma City, OK – June 1-5, 2020
 - Housing Authority, Walla Walla, WA – June 15-19, 2020
 - Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX – June 22-26, 2020
 - Joseph House, Cincinnati, OH – July 6-10, 2020
 - 12&12 Inc., Tulsa, OK – June 13-17, 2020
- **Indirect Cost Rates**
- **Training Item of the Month: COVID-19 Per Diem Rate Waiver Must Be:**
 - Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs **\$200.403**
 - Reasonable Costs **\$200.404**
 - Allocable Costs **\$200.405**



COVID-19 Review, CARES Act Part 2, and Discussion

Cases in the World



Cases in U.S.

Last updated on May 11, 2020

TOTAL CASES
1,324,488
23,792 New Cases*

TOTAL DEATHS
79,756
985 New Deaths*

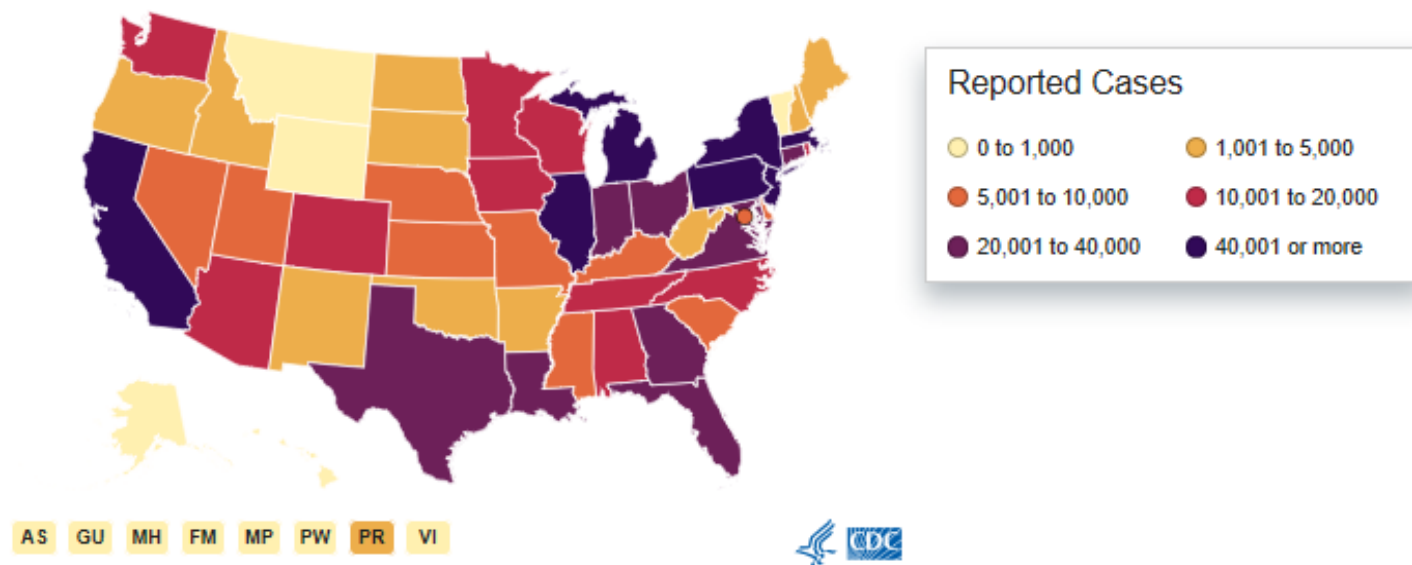
*Compared to yesterday's data

[About the Data](#)

Cases & Deaths by State

26 states report more than 10,000 cases of COVID-19.

This map shows COVID-19 cases and deaths reported by U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and other U.S.-affiliated jurisdictions. Hover over the map to see the number of cases and deaths reported in each jurisdiction. To go to a jurisdiction's health department website, click on the jurisdiction on the map.



Poll #1: What is the COVID-19 status in the community or communities that you serve?

- A.) Have not peaked yet
- B.) About to peak
- C.) Peaking now
- D.) Peaked recently
- E.) Peaked and now working towards recovery

Poll #2: What is happening in terms of closing/opening?

- A.) Shelter in Place (We are staying put except for essential visits.)
- B.) Partial re-opening but GPD sheltering in place
- C.) Partial re-opening and some movement in and out of GPD
- D.) Re-opening and full movement in and out

Conversations with Staff: We are a team.

- Now is the time to have conversations together. We can be respectful of boundaries while also supporting staff at their point of need.
- In some communities, it has been 8 or more weeks, and new needs have evolved. Staff may also be feeling a little tired or exhausted.
- **Questions Instead of “How are you?”**
 - How are you taking care of yourself today?
 - What have you learned or been surprised about through this situation?
 - What is something that has inspired you?
 - When does it feel like it is the hardest?
 - What’s the best thing that you have experienced so far?
 - Movement of staff in and out of site-based programs
- **Movement and Space**
 - Staff coming in and out of programs, daily (especially site-based)
 - Screening and awareness of movement in community
 - Creating more space
- **Accessing Resources**
 - **Financial challenges:** non-profit salary, may have job loss in family, cost of food is increased (\$7 for a dozen eggs), afraid to take leave when ill, needing to work two jobs
 - **Support:** Childcare, single parents, Employee Assistance Programs (may not be available at your agency, but are there other resources?)
 - **Supplies:** Do staff have masks, soap, and materials that they need at home?
 - **Information Overload:** Keeping Updated on New Information and Resources as they evolve



Poll #3: Is the increased per diem automatic?

- A.) Yes
- B.) No
- C.) Unsure

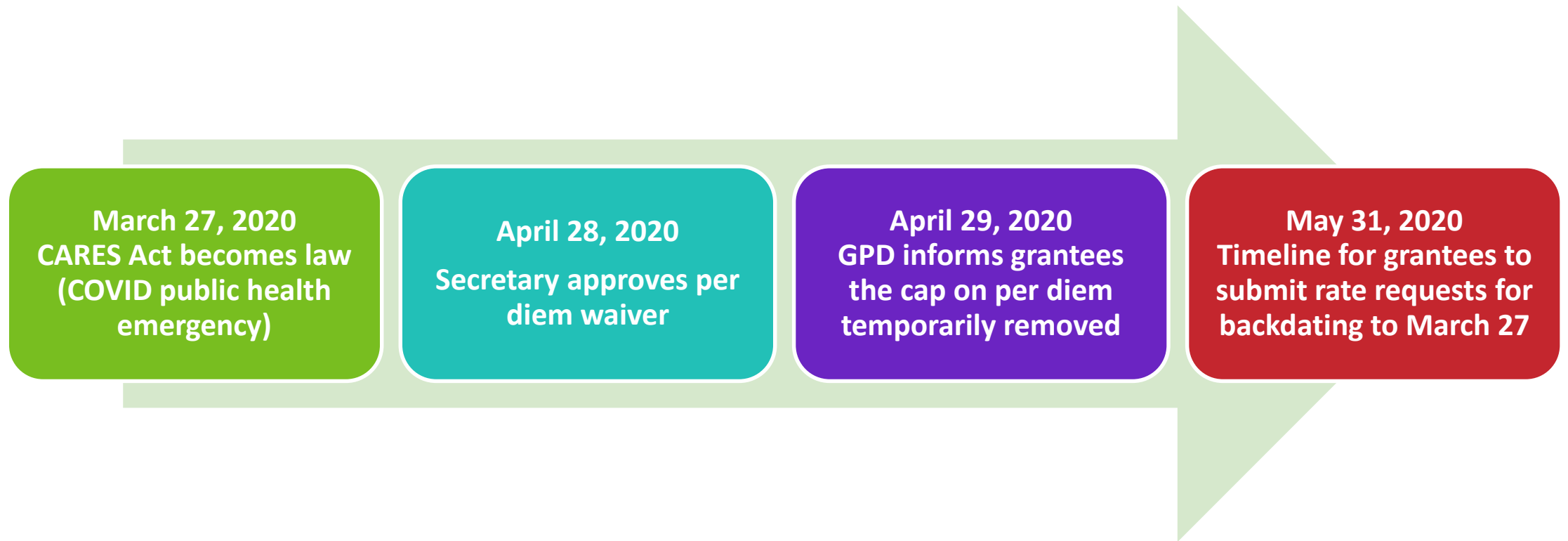
Poll #4: Is there a maximum amount that we can apply for?

- A.) Yes, twice the per diem rate so about \$99.
- B.) Yes, \$100.
- C.) Yes, \$200.
- D.) No, there is no maximum, but costs must be allowable, reasonable, and allocable.

Poll #5: Can you pay for hotel/motel with Per Diem?

- A.) Yes
- B.) No
- C.) Unsure

Timeline: GPD Per Diem Waiver



CARES Act Funding – Per Diem Rate Increases

- **What are the implications for the GPD per diem waiver?**
 - GPD received an additional \$88M which will support increased per diem funding for grantees that do SC, H2H, BH, LD, CT, SITH, and possibly TIP
 - There is no cap on the maximum per diem rate but, grantees costs must comply with the OMB Grants Management circulars ensuring costs are allowable, allocable, and reasonable
 - Grantees must submit a request receive a per diem rate increase (not automatic)
 - Grantees may submit for per diem rate increases to cover additional costs associated with serving Veterans during COVID (e.g., PPE, motel/hotels, additional space for social distancing, cleaning/disinfecting)
 - Increase may be backdated to March 27, 2020

CARES Act Funding – FAQs

- **Where can I find more information?**
 - Review email sent to GIFTS contacts on April 29, 2020 entitled *NOTICE: GPD Maximum Rate Increase (CARES Act waiver)*
 - Review recorded webinar; review website https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
- **Do I need to do anything?**
 - Make sure you are aware of the per diem waiver, and you get your rate increase request in ASAP.
 - Grantees asked to submit vouchers within **7 days** after the end of the month to support timely invoicing.
- **What are the allowable costs?**
 - What are allowable costs that I may spend this additional per diem funding on? This higher temporary per diem rate is intended to support the additional operating costs associated with serving Veterans during this public health emergency. Grantees may allocate all traditionally allowable operating costs, in addition to costs incurred to provide Veterans with safe isolation spaces during COVID-19.

Funding and Needs

- **What can I use the funding for?(Examples, not limited to)**
 - 1. Costs associated with additional space, or social distancing strategies in GPD transitional housing facilities
 - 2. Costs associated with isolation strategies for Veterans that are vulnerable or symptomatic (e.g., temporary use of hotel/motel rooms to isolate Veterans)
 - 3. Overtime for staffing costs to provide coverage
 - 4. Cleaning supplies to ensure facilities are appropriately disinfected;
 - 5. Toiletries to support hand washing hygiene for Veteran participants
 - 6. Ensuring food security and transportation needs for homeless Veterans
 - 7. Personal protective equipment for staff and/or Veterans with symptoms.

Note, grantees are responsible for monitoring their incurred costs, at least monthly, to ensure the rate requested is appropriate. Grantees would be advised to identify COVID-19-related costs in their recordkeeping in case of external review and for their own internal accounting purposes.
- **What if I am receiving other funding like small business support or HUD CARES Act funding?**
- **What if I need to modify services or staffing?**
- **Can Veterans extend their stay in GPD if needed?**

Ensuring Veteran Care When Accessing Hotels/Motels

- **Safety of Veterans, GPD staff, and VAMC staff has been our priority from the beginning.**
 - Grantees and liaisons must have clear discussions around if/when hotel/motel will be used as a spacing option and detail the plan for Veteran engagement and care.
 - In some ways, using different spacing options may support continued access to programs and services during COVID-19.
- **Questions to Review Together**
 - How are they planning to conduct daily wellness checks? Who will do it?
 - Are there specific questions that will be asked? (*Tip: Use those motivational interviewing skills*)
 - What if a Veteran indicates that he/she is unwell? What does the staff person do?
 - What is the plan to connect the Veteran with VA services or other community services, if needed?
 - How will the grantee provide case management and supportive services while the Veteran is in hotel/motel?
 - How will food needs, cleaning needs, and laundry needs be addressed?
 - Does the Veteran have all important emergency contacts? Does the staff member have the Veteran's emergency contact information? Has the staff walked through scenarios with Vet to help them be prepared in the event of an emergency?
 - Has the Veteran's individualized service plan been updated to meet their current needs?
 - Does the Veteran have access to online or virtual groups, supports, or other services to support needs that may evolve over time such as needing recovery support and ways to connect with social networks or support?

Discussion and Resources

- **What is working well?**
 - Do you have any resources or suggests for other grantees?
 - Tell us about how you are partnering with your GPD liaison, your VAMC, CoC, and community public health, and emergency services.
- **What has been a challenge?**
 - If you have an idea for someone's challenge, please add.
 - What questions do you have?
- **What other resources do you feel like you need (policy, guidance, application, community-level, etc.)?**
 - Are there any other ways that we can best support you and your team?

Next Steps

National GPD Operational Grantee Call

- *All Grantee Call-June (Pre-Recorded)*
- **GPD Questions?**
 - 1st : Review Grant Materials and Training
 - 2nd : Connect with your Supervisor
 - 3rd : Contact your GPD Liaison (Include FAIN)
 - 4th : Contact the GPD Program Office at gpdgrants@va.gov (Include FAIN) & Cc GPD Liaison